

Orange County North Basin Work Group

OCWD, RWQCB, DTSC, and EPA

April 24, 2014

Attendees

OCWD: Mike Wehner, Roy Herndon, Dave Mark, Scott Sommer, Meredith Durant, Keith Takata

RWQCB: Kurt Berchtold, Ann Sturdivant

DTSC: John Scandura, Tom Cota, Emad Yemut

EPA: John Lyons, Dusty Minor

Source Control

OCWD (Herndon)

See OCWD presentation.

RWQCB and DTSC (Berchtold, Sturdivant, Scandura, Cota, Yemut)

See joint RWQCB and DTSC table, which summarizes the status of 23 sites in North Basin.

RWQCB has lead responsibility for 9 sites, 3 of which are closed. RWQCB sites are voluntary cleanups, except Northrop Y-12. Only AC Products has addressed offsite groundwater.

See DTSC handout. DTSC has lead responsibility for 6 sites, 3 in orphan share program and 3 that are closed. To date DTSC has spent about \$5 million on the orphan sites and has not yet looked into insurance.

Neither RWQCB nor DTSC are working on 8 of the sites ("unassigned sites").

EPA (Lyons and Minor)

EPA is currently in a support role to the State. Due to budget cuts, EPA has resource constraints. EPA's priorities are EJ and tribes, vapor intrusion and emerging chemicals, and groundwater. EPA's future role in North Basin will be shaped by the assistance needed and expressed by the State.

In April, CalEPA released a new version of CalEnviroScreen. One of priority areas is in and around the southwest area of the North Basin interim action.

Action items:

- 1. There was some confusion about the sites in and around Weyerhaeuser. Durant will provide additional information to RWQCB and DTSC.*
- 2. OCWD believes that additional work needs to be done at several RWQCB and DTSC sites. For example, high levels of contamination at Fullerton Manufacturing and Crucible Materials should be addressed. OCWD will put together list of additional work and then the three agencies will meet.*
- 3. DTSC has a PA/SI grant with EPA. Under the grant, starting after July 2014, DTSC will conduct 10 sites screens in North Basin. 8 of 10 sites screens will be done at the “unassigned sites.” OCWD and Kennedy/Jenks will provide site data to DTSC.*

No agency has the resources to conduct discovery work at “unidentified sites.” It is possible that DTSC could do site discovery as part of its 2015 PA/SI grant with EPA.

No agency has the resources to conduct additional PRP search work. DTSC’s priority is its orphan shares. EPA’s priority is NPL sites.

Interim Action

OCWD will evaluate and recommend an appropriate interim action for North Basin in an accelerated 18-month RI/FS, consistent with the NCP, by Kennedy/Jenks. EPA and DTSC support an NCP process.

The agencies discussed whether any remediation could occur sooner. RWQCB acknowledged that it is possible that it may learn something from Kennedy/Jenks’ work that could lead to an earlier action.

OCWD asked which agency, RWQCB or DTSC or both, will review the interim action? Will the agency(ies) approve the interim action or conduct only a technical review?

Action item:

- 4. Before the next meeting of North Basin Work Group, RWQCB and DTSC will discuss which agency will review the interim action and how—technical review or approval.*

OCWD would like one of the regulatory agencies to address the overall offsite groundwater plume. RWQCB and DTSC indicated that the size and complexity of North Basin is larger than typically handled at the state level. If the state agencies cannot address the overall offsite plume, NPL listing may be the only alternative.

Longterm Remedy

As noted above, DTSC will conduct 10 sites screens in North Basin under its PA/SI grant with EPA. Although EPA has not agreed to NPL listing, a site screen is a first small step leading to “scoring” a site for NPL listing.

Operation of Work Group

The agencies agreed that the first meeting of the North Basin Work Group was valuable. The next meeting will occur in 3 to 4 months with the same level of management participation. OCWD will host the meeting at its offices. The topics will be discussed as the agencies develop the agenda for the next meeting.

Action item:

5. OCWD will call for and organize the next meeting of North Basin Work Group.